



AXE FACTS

The INFO Source for GR Users

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Compact GR-30 Guitar Synthesizer Gives Guitarists a Sonic Arsenal

Having introduced one of the world's first guitar synthesizers in 1977, Roland has been helping guitarists break free from traditional sonic limitations for over 20 years. Drawing on this experience, Roland brings you the GR-30 Guitar Synthesizer, an affordable, high-powered tool which gives your guitar an incredible range of tones and sonic possibilities. If you've been waiting to explore the world of guitar synthesis, the time has come. Read on...

The GR-30 is a four pedal, floor-based compact guitar synth for use with any steel-string guitar outfitted with a Roland GK-2A divided pickup. It includes 8 megabytes of 384 tones specially selected for guitar, including new sounds like fat basses, vintage analog synths, thick synth pads, nylon and 12-string acoustic guitars and various ethnic instruments. We're talking major sonic arsenal here.

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Preview the Future of Guitar with the GR-30 Demo Video!

Once every so often, an instrument comes along that redefines the way musicians think and play. The GR-30 Guitar Synthesizer is just such an instrument, and our new GR-30 Demo Video featuring German guitar god Gundy Keller will show you why. First, some background...

Roland has been developing and refining the art of guitar synthesis for over twenty years. For those already on the GR- bandwagon, you know how much a guitar synth can open up your creative and performance horizons—giving you sounds like fat basses, vintage organs, ethnic instruments, horns and orchestral sounds, plus access to the world of MIDI sequencing, notation and computers—all from your current guitar.

The surprisingly affordable GR-30 takes the guitar synth concept to the next level, adding an arsenal of incredible new sounds selected especially for guitarists, as well as new Synth Harmonist and Arpeggiator capabilities. The Synth Harmonist gives you musically correct harmonies for the key you're playing in, making it easy, for example, to sound like a string section instead of just one violin. The Arpeggiator is another mind-blowing feature that gives you preset and programmable patterns to nail the sound of say, a classical finger-style guitar or a rapid-fire organ riff.

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— GUITARISTS BEWARE — THE MOTHER OF ALL MUSIC GEAR VIDEOS RETURNS!



It's here! The Roland New Product Video — a.k.a. "the Mother of all Music Gear Videos" — is back for 1997. This video is chock-full of new product descriptions, demonstrations and all-out jams as filmed at our colossal 1997 Winter NAMM show. We're talking everything from the revolutionary new GR-30 Guitar Synthesizer and GC-405/405x and Jazz Chorus amps to cool BOSS stompboxes like the TR-2 Tremolo, AC-2 Acoustic Simulator and FZ-3 Fuzz. Not to mention the latest mind-blowing update to the hottest selling compact digital studio on the market — the Roland VS-880!

The international cast of featured performers include German guitar hero Gundy Keller, world-renowned jazz organist Joey DeFrancesco, drummer Byron Landham and a host of others. And when these guys start jammin' on their new Roland gear, look out!

So if you want to check out all of Roland's latest gear before it hits the stores, get a whirlwind tour of our 1997 NAMM show or simply watch some top-notch musicians going off, the 1997 New Product Video is a must-see! The video is available for \$5 from the Roland SuperStore, 1.800.386.7575.

Tips & Tricks

HERE'S A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ROLAND & BOSS GUITAR GEAR. ROCK ON!

Combining the BOSS GT-5 and the Roland GR-30

One of the great things about Roland and BOSS guitar products is their ability to use MIDI, giving you expanded control options. Here are some cool tips for using the BOSS GT-5 Guitar Effects Processor and the Roland GR-30 Guitar Synthesizer simultaneously.

Sending Program Changes to the BOSS GT-5

You can use the Roland GR-30 guitar synth as the brain for changing patches in the GT-5. This will allow you to use the Roland GK-2A pickup's S1 and S2 switches to change GT-5 patches from the guitar. Here's how:

- 1) Connect a MIDI cable from the MIDI OUT of the Roland GR-30 to the MIDI IN of the BOSS GT-5.
- 2) Press UTILITY on the BOSS GT-5 until you reach #4 [MIDI].
- 3) Use the VALUE DIAL to set the GT-5 MIDI Channel to 1. (Make sure that the GR-30 is set to MIDI Channel 1 also).

Now you can "map" a GT-5 patch to any patch on the GR-30:

- 1) Press the GT-5 PARAMETER > button several times until you reach [MIDI MAP SELECT].
- 2) Use the VALUE DIAL to select [Prog].
- 3) Press PARAMETER once to access [MIDI PROGRAM MAP].
- 4) Press PARAMETER > once to highlight P#_. This is the program number sent by the GR-30. (If the GR-30 is set to patch "All", it should read Program 1 of 256.)
- 5) Press PARAMETER > again to highlight #1-1-1. This is the program number that represents a patch on the GT-5. #1-1-1 is the first, 1-1-2 is the second, and so on.
- 6) Press EXIT when finished. The GR-30 will now send a MIDI Program Change to the BOSS GT-5.

USING THE BOSS GT-5 MIDI OUT

The BOSS GT-5 can send MIDI Control Messages to the Roland GR-Series guitar synths and other MIDI devices. Here's how to use the GT-5's built-in expression pedal to control volume.

MIDI Volume

- 1) Connect a MIDI cable from the MIDI OUT on the BOSS GT-5 to MIDI IN on the Roland GR guitar synth.
- 2) Press the UTILITY button on the GT-5 until you reach MIDI.
- 3) Press the PARAMETER > button several times to reach [MIDI TX CHANNEL] and use the VALUE DIAL to select MIDI Channel 1.
- 4) Press the PARAMETER > button to select [MIDI EXP NUMBER] and use the VALUE DIAL to select MIDI #7 (the universal MIDI control number for volume).
- 5) Press EXIT. The BOSS GT-5 will now control the volume for the Roland GR guitar synth.

MIDI Machine Control

You can also use the GT-5 for MIDI Machine Control. This will allow you to Start or Stop a MIDI "machine" such as the Roland VS-880 Digital Studio Workstation.

- 1) Connect a MIDI cable from the MIDI OUT on the GT-5 to MIDI IN on the Roland VS-880. Set the VS-880 to MMC Slave.
- 2) Call up any User Patch on the GT-5.
- 3) Press the Pedal/Assign Button.
- 4) Press the PARAMETER > Button until you reach CTL PEDAL Target. Turn the VALUE DIAL clockwise until you reach MMC Play/Stop.
- 5) Press WRITE. Your patch now allows the GT-5's built-in control pedal to start and stop the Roland VS-880.

GR-30 video from page 1

In the GR-30 Demo Video, Gundy demonstrates these amazing new features with taste and style. Everything from automatic classical-guitar arpeggios to big-band arrangements with intelligent harmonies are covered, complete with a final one-man jam that's likely to leave even guitar synth disbelievers in awe. If you've ever been curious about what a guitar synth can do for your music, now is your chance to see. The GR-30 Demo Video is available for \$5 from the Roland SuperStore, 1.800.386.7575.



Q CAN I USE MY NORMAL GUITAR SOUND ALONG WITH THE ROLAND VG-8?

Yes! The Roland VG-8 has a GUITAR OUT which allows you to route an unaffected sound straight from your guitar to your favorite amp. This way you can have separate control over both VG-8 sounds and “straight” guitar sounds.

Q HOW WOULD I CHANGE THE PICKUP CONFIGURATION ON EACH OF THE GUITAR MODELS IN MY VG-8 DURING A PERFORMANCE? IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE?

It's definitely possible with a VG-8 that has been “expanded” with the VG8S-1. The VG8S-1 System Expansion lets VG-8 users change pickup positions with the S1 and S2 switches on the Roland GK-2A divided pickup. You can also use BOSS FS-5U footswitches to achieve the same results, offering “hands-free” pickup selection.

Q ALTHOUGH THE ROLAND VG-8 IS DESIGNED AS A FLOOR UNIT WITH BUILT-IN FOOTPEDALS FOR CHANGING PATCHES, IS THERE SOME TYPE OF DEVICE THAT ALLOWS YOU TO CHANGE PATCHES AWAY FROM THE PEDALBOARD?

There is a device that will allow you to change patches without having to use the VG-8's pedalboard. The good news is that you don't have to spend any more money! You simply program the “expanded” VG-8 (see above) to allow patch changing from the S1 and S2 Switches on the GK-2A pickup.

Q I AM TRYING TO PROGRAM A PATCH THAT SOUNDS LIKE KIRK HAMMETT OF METALLICA. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?

One thing that might make it easier is to plug your CD player into the AUX IN on the VG-8's back panel. You can then use headphones or run the VG-8 through your setup and play along as you “clone” Kirk's sound from CD.

Q CAN THE GR-30 ARPEGGIATOR SEND AND RECEIVE MIDI CLOCK?

The GR-30 doesn't send MIDI clock, but it will receive MIDI clock to sync the Arpeggiator to an external MIDI device such as a drum machine or sequencer.

Q IS THE ROLAND GR-30 EXPANDABLE LIKE THE GR-1 OR GR-09 GUITAR SYNTHS?

Although the GR-30's internal sounds are not expandable, it does have more internal memory than both the Roland GR-1 and GR-09 Guitar Synthesizers. The GR-30 comes with 384 great-sounding tones and 256 patches—more than enough to satisfy even the most tone-hungry guitarists.

Q WHAT IS THE GR-30 SYNTH HARMONIST AND HOW CAN I USE IT IN A REAL-WORLD SITUATION?

The Synth Harmonist in the Roland GR-30 is the world's first intelligent pitch shifter for guitar synthesizer. Put simply, it lets you create some very rich harmonies simply by playing one note—perfect for many of the instrument sounds in the GR-30!

Q CAN I CONTROL THE TEMPO OF THE GR-30 ARPEGGIATOR WITH AN EV-5 EXPRESSION PEDAL?

Sure! You can control several of the parameters in the GR-30 with an expression pedal including tempo, panning, wah and much more!

Q CAN YOU CONTROL THE GT-5 EFFECTS WITH THE BUILT-IN EXPRESSION AND CONTROL PEDALS?

One of the great features in Roland and BOSS guitar processors is the ability to assign realtime controllers per patch. The BOSS GT-5 allows you to control up to eight effects at once with the built-in expression and control pedals. You can program tempo delay, reverb level, preamp level, tuner ON/OFF and much more.

Q WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO SET UP THE EFFECTS CHAIN IN THE BOSS GT-5?

This all depends on what effects you're using. It's generally a good idea to put your “dynamic effects” first, followed by your “time delay” effects. Dynamic effects include overdrive, distortion, EQ, compression, wah or anything that changes the shape of the sound. Time delay effects include reverb, delay, chorus, flanger, etc. The GT-5 gives you lots of effects-chain flexibility so that you can create your own unique configurations, so feel free to experiment!

Q WHAT IS A -QUICK SETTING- IN THE GT-5?

A “Quick Setting” is a pre-programmed set of parameters included for each of the GT-5's effects – great for those of us who don't enjoy programming. Simply press the effect you want and scroll through the Quick Settings using the VALUE dial.

GR-30 from page 1

With the world's fastest guitar tracking speed, the GR-30 gives you a totally natural feel and response; all of your distinct playing techniques are faithfully reproduced. To enhance this natural feel, the GR-30 also gives you "Play Feel" settings, which include five different response curves to accommodate various guitar playing styles.

Where the GR-30 really shines is in its amazing Synth Harmonist and Arpeggiator features. The new Synth Harmonist adds intelligent harmony to a single note and can combine your "straight" guitar sound with two different synth sounds. The powerful new Arpeggiator let you create various arpeggio patterns simply by holding down a chord and strumming the strings (and even allows for the creation of independent rhythms per string!). This feature lets you easily perform automatic right-hand picking associated with classical acoustic guitar playing, synth-like up-and-down patterns, the tremolo of a marimba and more, blowing your audience (and your band) away at your next gig. To blow minds even further, the GR-30 features a HOLD pedal which will let you solo over the "held" arpeggio.

The GR-30 also includes high-quality spatial effects like chorus, flanger, reverb and delay, as well as guitar-friendly wah effects which you can control with the onboard pedal or an external expression pedal. And for those of you who live to effect, guitar "out" and "return" jacks allow for external effects processing of the "straight" guitar signal.

As a guitar synth, the GR-30 also lets you output your guitar playing as MIDI data, giving you access to powerful computer-based music notation, recording and sequencing. Yep, all the stuff that has let your keyboard player feel superior for years.



TR-2 Tremolo

For those of you who just can't get enough of that vintage stuff, BOSS has reintroduced its legendary tremolo effects in the new TR-2 Tremolo pedal. The TR-2 delivers all the vintage tremolo sounds a retro-head or alternative rocker could ever ask for in a reliable new stomp box.

The BOSS TR-2 delivers its legendary tremolo effects through simple "Rate," "Wave," and "Depth" controls. "Rate" controls the speed of the tremolo effect, "Wave" controls the type of waveform (continuously adjustable between Triangle and Square), while "Depth" controls how drastic the effect will be. Working together, these three knobs can crank out both classic and radical tremolo effects—from surf guitar to grunge-o-matic.

Your pedalboard will appreciate this box's vintage-style knobs and finish, too, which score big in the looks department.

AC-2 Acoustic Simulator

Longing to explore your acoustic side but don't want to schlep your acoustic to every gig? No need to worry ... BOSS' AC-2 lets guitarists instantly "go acoustic" with the stomp of a single foot pedal, providing the freedom to easily mix electric and acoustic guitar sounds in live performance and studio settings.

The AC-2's convincing acoustic guitar simulations are controlled via simple "Level," "Body," "Top," and "Mode" knobs:

The "Level" knob sets the AC-2's output level so that the level of your "acoustic" sound can be precisely matched to the electric (un-effected) sound.

The "Mode" knob allows you to select four distinct acoustic guitar sounds: "Standard," which gives you a conventional acoustic guitar sound; "Jumbo," which is the sound of an acoustic guitar with a bigger, more resonant body; "Enhance," which provides an added brilliance to the acoustic sound to ensure that it cuts through in a live band setting; and "Piezo," which gives an electric-acoustic sound typical of piezo pickup.

The "Body" and "Top" knobs allow for further tailoring of the acoustic guitar sound; "Body" adjusts the resonance of the simulated guitar body, while "Top" adjusts the brilliance and the harmonics of the acoustic sound.

The AC-2's also features two outputs—one which sends only the dry, "un-effected" electric guitar sound and one which sends only the acoustic sound. When the AC-2 is on, the electric guitar output jack is muted; when the pedal is turned off, sound from the acoustic output jack is muted. This feature allows you to place effects in the electric guitar chain which will immediately be muted once the AC-2 is engaged (for use with two guitar amps or an amp with dual inputs).



CAN YOU SAY "STOMP?"

BOSS Gives You Three More Reasons to Wear Boots...

FZ-3 Fuzz

The BOSS FZ-3 Fuzz delivers those classic, nasty fuzz effects of the '60s and '70s in a cool retro-styled stomp box. For those who may be unfamiliar with fuzz tones, just imagine plugging several cranked distortion pedals together and running them through an overdriven amp during an earthquake. (Get the picture?)



The FZ-3's big, straightforward knobs deliver powerful "Level," "Fuzz," and "Tone" control—perfect for instant sonic tweaking. "Level" controls the FZ-3's output volume, "Tone" adjusts the tone of the fuzz effect, and "Fuzz" allows you to dial in exactly how much you want to upset your neighbors. Just beware of turning this knob past high noon—we really can't be responsible for your relationship with local law enforcement!